Reply of Government.—Will be done in course of time when our colleges are properly and fully equipped.

SUBJECT No. 273.

Religious instruction in schools.

Mr. C. Sreenivasa Rao, Chikmagalur taluk.

Summary of discussion.—No religious instruction should be given in Government schools. Such education may be left in the hands of parents. The good work done in the way of tolerance among the various religious sects and communities during the last 80 years is being marred. The intention with which the Government has introduced this instruction will never be attained.

Mr. K. H. Ramiah.—Religious instruction in schools is necessary. Not only should teachers do this work in the ordinary course, but men of character and integrity may be selected to go and give lectures in colleges and schools. For instance, men from the Ramakrishna Mission, the Theosophical Society, the Vokkaligar Sangha, etc., would be most suitable persons for engaging in this connection. This would undoubtedly result in great good.

Mr. H. Krishnasastri.—Religious instruction is necessary but it should not be sectarian in character.

Mr. V. Raghavachar.—Instruction in schools is not necessary. The boys may be allowed to have their own private lessons, an examination alone being conducted in the schools.

Mr. M. Venkatakrishniah.—A special report may be obtained as regards the progress of the scheme so far. It has not been a success. The boys do not attend these classes, and those that do are not benefited to any extent. The whole thing is become a farce, and this compulsory religious instruction should therefore be done away with.

Mr. Amble Anniah Pandit.—Mr. K. H. Ramiah's suggestion is good so far as it relates to public gentlemen giving weekly lectures, etc., in colleges and schools.

Mr. C. Vasudeva Rao.—The scheme is itself not sound, and it is, besides, bound to be a failure in the absence of capable teachers competent to do this difficult work.

Reply of Government.—Noted.

SUBJECT No. 274.

Conscience clause.

Mr. C. Srinivasa Rao, Chikmagalur taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Provision may be made for 'conscience clause' in the Grant-in-aid Code for all aided schools and colleges in the State, so that all pupils attending such schools may have the benefit of such provision as is allowed in all aided schools and colleges of British India for European and Eurasian pupils.

Mr. S. R. Balakrishna Rao supported the representation.

Reply of Government.—Noted for consideration in connection with the Grant-in-aid Code, the revision of which is on hand.

SUBJECT No. 275.

Better staff of high school teachers.

Mr. S. R. Balakrishna Rao, Shimoga Municipality.

Summary of discussion.—The results of the recent Matriculation examination in some of the High Schools show that proper scrutiny has not been exercised in the appointments and transfers of teachers to High Schools. Mere seniority in service ought not to count as a qualification for the post of the Headmaster of a high school. The aptitude of the teacher should be ascertained before the appointment is made. It would perhaps be better if some graduates are taken as probationers in the office of the Inspector-General of Education before they are sent out as teachers.

Reply of Government.—This will receive due consideration. A scheme is under contemplation of entertaining capable graduates as Probationers, and giving them proper training before confirmation.

SUBJECT No. 276.

Progressive pay to Anglo-Vernacular schoolmasters.

(1) Mr Kotturiah, Tiptur taluk.
(2) Mr. Venkatasamiah, Chamrajnagar taluk and
(3) Mr. Boregowda, Yedatore taluk.

Summary of discussion.—(1) Schoolmasters now start on a salary of Rs. 10. Those who have put in over 20 years service are also getting Rs. 10. There is thus no difference between an experienced master and a new man. This makes the masters work with less interest and the education of the children thereby suffers. It is therefore prayed that the masters in the taluk Anglo-Vernacular schools at least, be given periodical increments every year as is being given in other departments.

(2) The system of promotion by grades may be introduced into Anglo-Vernacular schools as in the case of high schools.

(3) The schoolmasters of all the elementry schools are given a uniform pay without regard to their merit and good work turned out by them. Pray that some distinction be drawn between those that do good and hard work and promotions given them by way of encouragement.

Reply of Government.—The revision of scale of pay of the Anglo-Vernacular schoolmasters is under consideration.

SUBJECT No. 277.

Increase of pay to masters of Kannada schools.

Messrs. Revanasiddia, Gurulingappa and Halappa, Honnali taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Kannada school masters who have passed the Upper Secondary and Pandits' examinations get very low pay and do not get any periodical increments. Considering their qualifications, it is desirable to prescribe a scale of increments to their pay by way of encouragement.